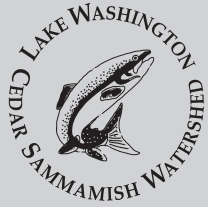


LAKE WASHINGTON/CEDAR/SAMMAMISH WATERSHED (WRIA 8) STEERING COMMITTEE

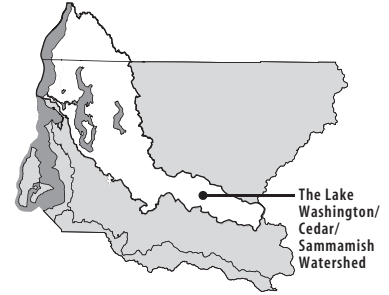


Bellevue
Bothell
Clyde Hill
Issaquah
King County
Kirkland
Maple Valley
Mercer Island
Redmond
Renton
Sammamish
Seattle
Shoreline
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The Boeing Company
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Friends of Issaquah
Salmon Hatchery
Greater Maple Valley
Area Council
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Mid-Sound Fisheries
Enhancement Group
Northwest Marine
Trade Association
Save Lake Sammamish
Sustainable Fisheries
Foundation
Trout Unlimited

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Washington Department
of Ecology
Washington Department
of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department
of Natural Resources
Washington Association
of Sewer and
Water Districts
King Conservation
District

February 25, 2005



Dear WRIA 8 Forum Members:

As Co-Chairs for the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Steering Committee, we are pleased to submit the Committee's *Proposed Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan* for your review and approval to submit to jurisdictions for ratification. This plan represents the final work product of the inter-local agreement signed in early 2001 for the Water Resource Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8). It reflects the collaborative efforts and many long hours spent by elected officials and jurisdictional staff, citizens, scientists, environmental groups, business representatives, and some state and federal agencies. It also reflects public comment received during the public review process held at the end of 2004.

The proposed plan contains recommendations for actions to restore and protect salmon habitat and an approach for implementing these actions over the next ten years. Much progress has been made since we started salmon planning efforts half a decade ago. Many early action projects have been funded, implemented, or are under way. However, more needs to be done if our salmon are to remain a legacy rather than become a legend. Salmon conservation requires leadership from local governments as well as a long-term commitment from our citizens.

For the plan to come alive, decisions will soon be needed on the following issues: continuing intergovernmental collaboration and decision-making, clarifying priorities for watershed funding, securing long-term funding sources, monitoring our progress to assure money is spent on actions that truly make a difference, and negotiating assurances from the federal and state governments. The Steering Committee has provided background information and recommendations in this plan that we hope will be helpful as you consider these issues.

On behalf of the WRIA 8 Steering Committee, we look forward to working with you during the next 90 days to seek approval of the plan so that it may be submitted to local councils for ratification. Steering Committee members are available to help answer questions and discuss plan contents.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Jim Compton
City of Seattle
WRIA 8 Steering Committee Co-Chair

Councilmember Larry Phillips
King County
WRIA 8 Steering Committee Co-Chair

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Financial support provided by the signers of the interlocal agreement to cost-share watershed planning in WRIA 8:
Beaux Arts Village, Bellevue, Bothell, Clyde Hill, Edmonds, Hunts Point, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, King County, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Medina, Mercer Island, Mill Creek, Mountlake Terrace, Mukilteo, Newcastle, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle, Shoreline, Snohomish County, Woodinville and Yarrow Point